

STATE OF CONNECTICUT**REGULATION
OF**

NAME OF AGENCY**Department of Energy and Environmental Protection**

concerning

subject matter of Regulation**Proposed Amendments to Hunting and Trapping Regulations**

Proposed Amendments to Sections 26-16-3a, 26-27b-1, 26-48a-3, 26-48-7, 26-49-2, 26-52-1, 26-55-3, 26-66-1, 26-66-2, 26-66-3, 26-66-4, 26-66-5, 26-66-12, 26-66-14, 26-86a-1, 26-86a-2, 26-86a-4 and 26-86a-6 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is also proposing to add new subsections 26-16-3a(g), 26-55-3(g), 26-55-3(h), 26-66-14(d), 26-86a-2(i), 26-86a-4(b) and 26-86a-4(c).

Section 26-16-3a of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Sec. 26-16-3a. Limitations of Public Use of State Controlled Wildlife Management Areas

- (a) Target shooting is prohibited on any wildlife management area unless so designated by the Department.
- (b) All-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, snowmobiles, and all other motorized vehicles shall be prohibited on any wildlife management area unless so designated by the Department.
- (c) Horses and other riding animals shall be prohibited on any wildlife management area posted against such activities.
- (d) Except as provided in Section 26-16-2, camping is prohibited on any state controlled Wildlife Management Area, except on the Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area where camping, conducted in conjunction with an educational program approved by the Commissioner, shall be permitted only if authorized in writing by the Commissioner.

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(e) Wildlife Management Areas shall be closed to the public from one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise except for hunting, fishing or other activities authorized by the Department.

(f) Dogs must be on a leash no longer than seven (7) feet and under the control of their owner or keeper. The person responsible for the dog, must hold the leash at all times. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to the proper use of dogs while in the act of hunting or the training of dogs for the specific purpose of hunting, however all dogs may be prohibited on any area or during any time period when so posted by the Department.

(g) In Wildlife Management Areas, the use of bicycles shall be prohibited on any trail, road, path or other area posted against such activity.

Section 26-27b-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2. Section 26-27b-1. Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp

[(1)](a) The requirement for possession of a Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp while hunting or taking waterfowl shall be in addition to the requirement for possession of a Connecticut small game hunting license and any other permit or stamp required by Connecticut or federal law. The stamp shall not be transferable.

[(2)](b) The price of the Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp shall be [ten] no more than thirteen dollars. Such stamps shall be [issued annually beginning on July first and shall expire on June thirtieth of the following calendar year] valid for a calendar year and expire on December 31.

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Section 26-48a-3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 3. Section 26-48a-3. Migratory Bird Harvest Permit

(a) No person required to be licensed under section 26-27 of the Connecticut General Statutes as amended shall hunt, possess or transport any migratory game bird, other than a crow, without also possessing a Migratory Bird Harvest Permit ("Permit") issued by the Commissioner.

(b) The permit is valid for a calendar year, and expires December 31.

(c) The permittee shall carry the permit at all times when hunting.

(d) A permit may be purchased from any [town clerk] licensing agent for [two] four dollars.

(e) [For each permit sold, the town clerk shall retain one dollar and shall send one dollar to the Department in accordance with Section 26-36 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(f)] Any person purchasing a permit shall possess a current hunting license issued per Section 26-27 of the Connecticut General Statutes and provide his or her name, date of birth, current mailing address and complete a questionnaire regarding his or her hunting and harvest of migratory birds.

[(g) The town clerk shall mail the appropriate part of each Permit to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service within twenty-one (21) days of the date that the permit was purchased.]

Section 26-48-7of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

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Sec. 4. Section 26-48-7. Identification and Records of Game Shot

(a) (1) All pheasants, quail, chukar partridge and/or ducks shot on the property included in the permit and recovered shall be [securely tagged with a sealed, numbered tag supplied by the department at a cost of ten cents per tag] identified with a tag containing the permittee's name and date of taking.

(2) A separate record shall be kept of all birds killed and recovered that are dressed and frozen and held on property.

(b) The permittee shall keep accurate, written daily records that shall be open to inspection by any duly authorized representative of the Department at any time. These records shall include (1) the name of each person hunting on the area; the day person was hunting and the amount of game, pheasant, quail, chukar partridge and ducks taken each day. (2) The number of all pheasant, quail, chukar partridge and ducks liberated on the area included in the permit, together with the dates when such birds were liberated. Not later than thirty days following the period for which the permit was issued, the permittee shall submit to the department a true copy of his records on forms provided by the department.

Section 26-49-2 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 5. Section 26-49-2. Hunting Dog Training Areas

(a) The size of the area where dog training is permitted shall be not more than 300 acres; however, the area where the shooting of birds will be permitted in connection with dog training shall be not less than five acres nor more than ten acres in size and shall be in a single block.

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(b) The external boundaries of the dog training area shall be conspicuously posted and the area where the shooting of birds is permitted in connection with dog training shall be adequately posted by the permittee at intervals of not more than 100 feet with conspicuous signs of a size not less than 11" X 16". These signs shall include the name of the permittee and the words "Regulated Dog Training Area ... Authorized under regulations of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection."

(c) The area where the shooting of birds is permitted in connection with dog training shall be in a location that does not conflict with any reasonable prior public interest, shall be suitable for the purpose, where the discharge of firearms will not endanger public safety, and shall be on or in close proximity to the private shooting preserve, game farm or commercial kennel of the permittee.

(d) Only artificially propagated pheasant, chukar partridge, quail, ducks and pigeons of either sex may be liberated and shot.

(e) All birds liberated shall be full-winged and capable of maintaining normal flight and shall be in a condition suitable to maintain themselves in the wild.

(f) No game bird or pigeon shall be permanently confined on the area where shooting is permitted in connection with the training of dogs by use of any device.

(g) All birds after they are shot in connection with dog training, shall be identified with a tag [obtained from the Department at a fee of ten cents each] containing the permittee's name and date of taking.

(h) The permittee shall keep accurate written daily records which shall be open to inspection by any duly authorized representative of the department at any reasonable time. These records shall include:

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- (1) The name of each person hunting on the area, the day the person was hunting and amount of game, pheasant, quail, chukar partridge and ducks taken each day.
- (2) The number of all pheasants, quail, chukar partridge, and ducks liberated on the area included in the permit, together with the dates when such birds were liberated. Not later than thirty days following the period for which the permit was issued, the permittee shall submit to the department, a true copy of his records on forms provided by the department.

Section 26-52-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 6. Section 26-52-1. Permits for Shooting Birds Liberated at Field Dog Trials

The commissioner will issue permits for field dog trials at which birds may be shot subject to the following regulations:

- (a) Birds may be shot at all field dog training trials, and other trials which are licensed or sanctioned by the AKC, CASDFTA or NAVHDA.
- (b) Field dog trials at which birds may be shot may be held during daylight hours, any time, including Sunday.
- (c) The location where such field dog trial is held shall be suitable for that purpose and such trial shall not endanger the public safety. State-owned lands approved for shooting field dog trials are the Nod Brook Management Area, Dr. John E. Flaherty Field Trial Area, Mansfield Hollow Dam, and Sugarbrook Field Trial Area.
- (d) Only pheasant, quail, chukar partridge, ducks and pigeons of either sex shall be liberated and shot at field dog trials.

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(e) A minimum of five of any of the following species, pheasant, quail, chukar partridge, ducks or pigeons shall be liberated at each field dog trial.

(f) All pheasants, quail, chukar partridge, ducks or pigeons liberated at field dog trials for the purpose of their being shot shall have complete wing feathers, shall be capable of maintaining normal flight and shall not be confined to the field trial area by use of any device.

(g) No pheasant, quail, chukar partridge, or duck shall be liberated unless it was obtained from the same source of supply as that stated in the permit, except with the permission of the commissioner.

(h) All pheasant, quail, chukar partridge or ducks shot shall be [immediately tagged by an agent of the commissioner. Tags shall be obtained from the Department of Environmental Protection upon payment of a fee of ten cents each] identified with a tag containing the permittee's name and date of taking.

(i) A report on the trial, on a form furnished by the commissioner, must be submitted to the commissioner by the agent of the commissioner within one week of the end of the trial.

(j) Birds escaping from the trial course shall not be hunted further by trial participants or spectators on the same day as the trial. Shooting by trial participants off the bird field area as designated by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is prohibited.

(k) A permit to hold a field dog trial at which birds may be shot shall cost [ten dollars (\$10.00)] thirty five dollars (\$35.00) if held at the Nod Brook Management Area, Dr. John E. Flaherty Field Trial Area or Mansfield Hollow Dam and sanctioned by the AKC, CASDFTA or NAVHDA, and [five dollars (\$5.00)] eighteen dollars (\$18.00) if held on private lands.

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Section 26-55-3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 7. Section 26-55-3 Possession of Salamanders and Turtles

- (a) No person shall possess in excess of three (3) Spotted Salamanders, (*Ambystoma maculatum*), at any time.
- (b) No person shall possess in excess of three (3) Marbled Salamanders, (*Ambystoma opacum*), at any time.
- (c) No person shall possess any Wood Turtle, (*[Clemmys] Glyptemys insculpta*), at any time.
- (d) No person shall possess in excess of one (1) Eastern Box Turtle, (*Terrapene c. carolina*), at any time.
- (e) No person shall possess in excess of one (1) Eastern hognose snake, (*[Heterodos] Heterodon platirhinos*), at any time.
- (f) No person shall possess in excess of one (1) Eastern ribbon snake, (*Thamnophis sauritus*), at any time.
- (g) No person shall possess in excess of thirty (30) adult Common Snapping Turtles, (*Chelydra serpentina*), at any time. This restriction shall not apply to turtles that can be documented as being bred in captivity and legally obtained.
- (h) No person shall possess in excess of one (1) Spotted Turtle, (*Clemmys guttata*), at any time.

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Section 26-66-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8. Section 26-66-1. Behavior and Actions of Hunters

(a) The method of taking wild birds and wild quadrupeds by hunting shall be restricted to firearms, high velocity air guns using a single ball or pellet type projectile, and compound, long[,] or recurved bow, or crossbow. In designated areas, by special permit, the commissioner may allow the use of modified versions of air guns or archery implements to achieve wildlife management objectives. No arrow or projectile which is coated with or contains any drugs, poison or known tranquilizing substance may be used or possessed while engaged in archery hunting.

(b) [Use of crossbows is prohibited, except during the January bow and arrow season archery deer seasons on private land in deer management zones described pursuant to section 26-86a-6(b) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies or except that a person who has a permanent physical disability to the degree that he or she cannot operate a long, recurve or compound bow may obtain a permit to take deer or turkey with a crossbow. A person applying for a crossbow permit under the disability provision of this section shall show proof that he or she has successfully completed the Connecticut conservation education/firearms safety advanced bowhunter education course or its equivalent and present a certificate from a licensed physician that he or she is so disabled. Upon satisfactory proof of disability, the commissioner may issue such a permit under this section which shall be carried at all times while hunting. Such permit shall not be a replacement for and is valid only with any license or permit required for archery hunting under the provisions of chapter 490 of the Connecticut General Statutes or regulations promulgated thereunder.] Any crossbow and bolt combination to be used for hunting [as permitted under this subsection] shall meet the following specifications: (1) The draw weight of the crossbow shall be not less than 125 pounds [nor more than 200 pounds]; (2) The crossbow shall have a permanent fixed rifle type stock, and a functional and/or fully operational mechanical safety device; (3) The bolt (arrow) length shall be not less than eighteen inches,

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excluding the broadhead; and (4) The [bolt weight shall be not less than 450 grains, including the broadhead; (5) the] broad head shall have two or more blades with a width not less than seven-eighths of an inch at the widest point. In addition, any crossbow in a drawn and cocked position with a bolt loaded in the crossbow shall be considered a loaded weapon [, whether or not a bolt is loaded on the crossbow].

(c) There shall be no hunting from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, except that raccoon and opossum hunting is permitted after sunset on state-owned lands which are open to hunting and on privately owned lands where landowners do not object, and provided the open season for hunting migratory game birds shall be governed by the provisions of Section 26-66-4, and provided further that on the third Saturday in October, hunting shall commence at 7:00 a.m. e.d.t. (eastern daylight time) except for waterfowl, turkey and archery deer hunting.

(d) There shall be no hunting with firearms, discharging of firearms or carrying of loaded firearms within five hundred feet of any building occupied by people or domestic animals or used for storage of flammable or combustible materials, unless written permission of owner of such buildings is obtained and carried while hunting to allow closer shooting distances, except that the above referred to distance shall be not less than two hundred fifty feet unless written permission of owner of such buildings is obtained and carried while hunting to allow closer shooting distances when waterfowl is hunted in tidal water areas from land shooting positions or from floating blinds anchored adjacent to land or from rock formations. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to landowners, their spouses or lineal descendants when hunting within five hundred feet of buildings owned by them or, when hunting waterfowl, within two hundred fifty feet of such buildings, but shall apply when said persons are hunting within said distances of buildings not so-owned.

(e) No hunting weapon shall be discharged toward any person, building or domestic animal when the same is within range or from or across the traveled portion of any public roadway.

(f) Domestic animals, agricultural crops, signs, fences, installations and facilities of utility

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companies and other property shall not be damaged.

(g) No dogs shall be trained, run or exercised or be permitted to run at large during the period from June first to the opening of the upland hunting season on any land posted by the Department or its agents against such activity.

(h) Hunting, trapping, fishing and/or trespassing is prohibited on any wildlife refuge, closed area or safety zone posted by the Department or its agents against such activity.

(i) Hunting is prohibited from the traveled portion of a public road or on any road adjacent to any premises used for the breeding, rearing, or holding in captivity of wildlife, or premises used for zoological purposes, or posted by the Department or its agents against such activity.

(j) No animals, except a dog or bird of prey where permitted by law or regulation shall be used in hunting or pursuing any wild bird or wild quadruped. Permits to use [of] birds of prey may be issued at the discretion of the commissioner to those persons who are engaged in federal, state or university cooperative research programs for the reestablishment of wild populations of raptors.

(k) No motor vehicle shall be operated or parked upon any public or private road, parking area, lane, passageway, right-of-way, field or lot posted by the Department or its agents against such activity.

(l) Discarding of bottles, glass, cans, paper, junk, litter or trash is prohibited on lands and waters open to hunting or otherwise under the jurisdiction of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

(m) Vehicles using department-controlled parking areas shall be parked only in authorized places.

(n) At department-controlled boat launching sites, no boat shall be moored or anchored in a manner that will obstruct or interfere with the launching of other boats, and no boat shall be left

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unattended in the water or beached on shore unless such boat has, in an exposed area, the name and address of the owner of such boat painted or branded thereon or in any legible manner attached thereto. Any boat anchored, moored, beached or stored in violation of this subsection, and not removed within forty-eight hours after notice has been served on the owner thereof, shall be subject to impoundment at the expense of the owner, and such owner shall be subject to the penalties provided for violations of the provisions of this subsection. For the purpose of this subsection, notice shall be considered to have been served on the owner when a warning card has been affixed to his boat by a representative of the Department.

(o) At department-controlled boat launching areas on inland lakes and ponds, unattended boats left moored, anchored, beached or stored after December fifteenth and before March first shall be subject to impoundment at the expense of the owner and such owner shall be subject to the penalties provided for violations of the provisions of this subsection.

(p) Subject to the provisions of subsection (c), no person shall hunt raccoons or opossums from [1/2] one-half hour after sunset to [1/2] one-half hour before sunrise by the use of a rifle, revolver, or pistol that uses centerfire ammunition or rim fire ammunition having a cartridge case longer than that of a .22 caliber long rifle cartridge case and the projectile of which is heavier than 20 grains or by use of shotgun shells larger or heavier than number two shot. No person shall take or attempt to take raccoons or opossums by the use of a light from a motor vehicle.

(q) Rifles and handguns using centerfire ammunition or rim fire ammunition having a cartridge case longer than that of a .22 rim fire long rifle cartridge case and the projectile of which is heavier than 20 grains and shotgun ammunition of loads larger or heavier than number two shot shall not be possessed and pistols or revolvers using ammunition larger or heavier than .22 rim fire long rifle cartridge shall not be used for the purposes of hunting as defined in section 26-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes on any private land during the private land shotgun rifle deer season as specified in section 26-86a-6(b)(7) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. This provision relating to rifle, shotgun and revolver ammunition shall not apply to persons holding valid landowner, private land shotgun rifle and/or revolver deer permits. Waterfowlers

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hunting from a boat, blind or stationary position may only use the ammunition specified in section 26-66-4(t) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(r) No person shall hunt, pursue, wound or kill any wildlife from September 1 through the last day of February without wearing above the waist at least a total of four hundred square inches of fluorescent orange clothing visible from all sides. This provision does not apply to:

- (1) archery deer hunting from September 15 through the second Tuesday before Thanksgiving, and January 1 through January 31;
- (2) archery deer hunting from the second Wednesday before Thanksgiving through December 31 while hunting from an elevated tree stand more than 10 feet from the ground;
- (3) archery and firearms turkey hunting;
- (4) waterfowl hunting from blinds or boats or from a stationary position;
- (5) crow hunting from a blind or a stationary position;
- (6) hunting raccoon and opossum from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise; [or]
- (7) deer hunting by a landowner on his own property; or
- (8) coyote and fox hunting from a blind, except during any firearms deer or fall firearms turkey season.

Section 26-66-2 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 9. Section 26-66-2. State-owned, State-leased, and Permit-required Hunting Areas; Weapons

(a) Any rifle or handgun using centerfire ammunition may not be used to hunt on state-owned land. Any rifle or handgun that uses rim fire ammunition having a cartridge case longer than that of a .22 long rifle cartridge case and the projectile of which is heavier than 20 grains, and

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shotgun ammunition of loads larger or heavier than number two shot shall not be possessed or used for the purposes of hunting as defined in section 26-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes on any state-owned land, including state forests. Muzzleloading rifles larger than .36 caliber or using any projectile other than round ball shall not be possessed or used for the purposes of hunting as defined in section 26-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes on any state-owned land, including state forests, except as provided for in section 26-86c of the Connecticut General Statutes. [Crossbows shall not be possessed or used for the purposes of hunting except as defined in section 26-66-1(b) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.] This provision shall not apply to rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, or revolvers possessed by persons transporting legally killed and properly tagged deer taken on private lands to check stations located on state-owned properties, approved shooting range areas or deer hunting with shotgun or muzzleloader during the open season on such land. Waterfowlers hunting from a boat, blind or stationary position may only use the ammunition specified in section 26-66-4(t) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(b) Rifles of any caliber and shotgun ammunition of any shot load larger or heavier than number two shot shall not be possessed and pistols or revolvers of any caliber shall not be used for the purposes of hunting as defined in section 26-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes on any state-leased or permit required hunting area during the period starting the third Saturday in October through the last day in February, except by landowners, lessees, their spouses, lineal descendants and regular employees on land owned or leased by them. Waterfowlers hunting from a boat, blind or stationary position may only use the ammunition specified in section 26-66-4(t) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. This provision shall not apply to combination rifle-shotgun firearms when the rifle portion thereof is, or has been made, inoperative, or to approved shooting range areas on such land. This provision shall not apply to persons holding a valid permit to hunt deer on such land with a revolver, shotgun, rifle or muzzleloader. Trappers actively engaged in legal trapping and raccoon hunters may use handguns using ammunition having a cartridge case not longer than that of a .22 rim fire long rifle cartridge case and the projectile of which is not heavier than 20 grains.

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(c) During the period from the last day in February to the third Saturday in October, rifles, pistols or revolvers without regard to caliber, and shotgun ammunition of any load may be used in the legal hunting or taking of wildlife, or for any other legal purpose, on state-leased and permit-required hunting areas only with written permission of the landowner or lessee of the land.

(d) Hunting or possession of any hunting weapon is prohibited in any park or forest recreation area except at predetermined times in such areas as are set aside by the commissioner or his designee and posted for such purposes.

(e) Starting the third Saturday in October through the last day in February, hunting or shooting is prohibited on any permit-required hunting area without a written permit or other authorization from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection or an authorized agent of the Department except on lands owned by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection designated as a permit-required hunting area, a written permit or other authorization from the Department is required from the third Saturday in October through the first Saturday in December unless otherwise posted. All such written permits or other authorizations shall be returned to the Department, or its authorized agent, within forty-eight hours following expiration of such permit or authorization. Records kept by any authorized agent in issuing such permits or authorizations shall be available for inspection by any state conservation officer or other Department official during normal business hours.

Section 26-66-3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 10. Section 26-66-3. Open Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Upland Game Birds and Quadrupeds

The following seasons are subject to the closures provided in (i) and (j) of this section:

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(a) The open season for taking chukar partridge shall be from the third Saturday in October through the second Saturday in January. The daily bag limit shall not exceed two chukar partridge, and the season bag limit shall not exceed ten chukar partridge.

(b) The open season for taking European hare and cottontail rabbit shall be from the third Saturday in October through the last day of February. The daily bag limit shall not exceed one European hare and three cottontail rabbits, and the season bag limit shall not exceed ten European hare and twenty-five cottontail rabbits. The open season for taking ruffed grouse shall be from the third Saturday in October through the last day of November. The open season for taking gray squirrel shall be a split season starting the first day in September and running through the last day of September and starting the third Saturday in October and continuing through the last day of February. The daily bag limit shall not exceed one ruffed grouse and eight gray squirrels and the season bag limit shall not exceed eight ruffed grouse and forty gray squirrels.

(c) The open season for taking snowshoe rabbit shall be from the third Saturday in November through January 31. The daily bag limit shall not exceed two and the season bag limit shall not exceed ten.

(d) The open season for taking raccoon and opossum shall be from the third Saturday in October through the third Saturday in January. During the shotgun season for hunting deer, raccoon and opossum hunting will not be permitted during the daylight hours from [1/2] one-half hour before sunrise to [1/2] one-half hour after sunset. The daily bag limit shall not exceed five for raccoon. There shall be no daily or seasonal bag limits on opossum.

(e) The open season for taking quail shall be from the third Saturday in October and continue for two consecutive weeks, except that the season shall continue through the second Saturday in January on the following state-controlled field trial or dog training areas: Dr. John E. Flaherty Field Trial Area, Mansfield Hollow Dam, Nod Brook Management Area and Sugarbrook Field Trial Area. The daily bag limit shall not exceed two and the season bag limit shall not exceed ten.

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(f) There shall be no open season on Hungarian partridge, northern and southern flying squirrel, mink, moose, muskrat, beaver, otter, Canada lynx, harbor seal, pine marten, Indiana bat, black bear, fisher, bobcat and mountain lion (*felis concolor*).

(g) There shall be no closed season except as provided in section 26-66-1 (c) and subsection (j) of this section; and no daily or season bag limits on any of the following species: coyote, porcupine, red squirrel, weasel, and skunk.

(h) The open season for taking red fox and gray fox shall be from the third Saturday in October through the last day in February. The daily bag limit shall not exceed three and the season limit shall not exceed thirty, in combination.

(i) There shall be a closed season for all hunting and the training of dogs from the [first] second Saturday in October through 7:00 a.m., e.d.t. on the third Saturday in October except for turkey and archery deer hunting; rail and gallinule hunting in tidal marsh; waterfowl hunting; coyote hunting; the hunting of foxes and rabbits under the provisions of section 26-39 of the [general statutes] Connecticut General Statutes as amended; hunting on licensed private shooting preserves operating under the provisions of section 26-48 of the [general statutes] Connecticut General Statutes as amended; junior pheasant hunting training day under the provisions of Section 26-48a-1(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut state agencies; field trials held under the provisions of section 26-51 and section 26-52 of the [general statutes] Connecticut General Statutes as amended, the training of dogs under the provisions of Section 26-49 of the [general statutes] Connecticut General Statutes as amended; or the training of hunting dogs on any area approved by the Department for this purpose.

(j) There shall be no open season for hunting any wild game birds or mammals other than turkeys during the open spring turkey season beginning the [first] last Wednesday in [May] April and ending [after 25 consecutive days thereafter] the last Saturday in May.

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(k) The open season for taking woodchuck shall be from March 15 through November 15.

Section 26-66-4 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 11. Section 26-66-4. Wild Fowl and Shore Birds

The open season daily bag limit and possession limit for migratory game birds and the method of taking such game birds shall be the same as the open season, daily bag limit, possession limit and methods of taking fixed for such birds by the regulations of the United States fish and wildlife service made under the provisions of an act of Congress relating to migratory birds, and as provided under the provisions of section 26-91 of the [general statutes] Connecticut General Statutes, except as provided in section 26-66-1(c).

(a) [There shall be a minimum distance of one hundred yards between all occupied duck hunting blinds, whether such blinds be permanent, temporary, drift or float.

(b)] No person, except the commissioner, may construct or place any permanent blind or structure for hunting of waterfowl on state-controlled lands or waters. Any such permanent blind or structure may be removed or destroyed by the commissioner at any time.

[(c)] (b) All waterfowl hunting on state-controlled lands and waters of Great Island, Old Lyme and Ragged Rock Creek, Old Saybrook, shall be from waterfowl hunting blinds only, except that cripples may be recovered by shooting within the area open to hunting.

[(d)] (c) Waterfowl hunting in the Niantic River in the towns of Waterford and East Lyme is subject to the following regulations:

- (1) Hunting is prohibited from shore or in the intertidal area without the permission of the riparian property owner;

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- (2) Hunting is prohibited in the water areas northerly of an east and west line which touches the southern tip of Sandy Point and includes Keeny Cove;
- (3) Hunting from boats is permitted only along the midline of the river;
- (4) Hunting is prohibited in Smith Cove and the channel entering Smith Cove in East Lyme.

[(e)] (d) Waterfowl hunting is prohibited in Alewife Cove and entrance channel, Waterford and New London, and in Jordan Cove, north from the mean high water line on the northern side of the sand spit and island.

[(f)] (e) Except during the regular duck season scaup, scoter, eider and old squaw may be hunted only in coastal waters and all waters of rivers and streams lying seaward from the first upstream bridge.

[(g)] (f) There shall be no waterfowl hunting on or from the tidal waters of the inlet between Cuttings Road, Compo Beach Road and Owenoke Park, known as Gray's Creek, Westport.

[(h)] (g) There shall be no waterfowl hunting in Cove Pond (Holly Pond) Stamford and Darien north of the dam.

[(i)] (h) The open season for taking crows shall be from the [third] second Saturday in [October] January through the [first] last Saturday in March and on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from the second Saturday in August through November 30.

[(j)] (i) There shall be no waterfowl hunting in the tidal waters of Cove Harbor within 100 feet of the mean high tide mark of the Darien shore.

[(k)] (j) Except when specifically authorized by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for use during a special hunting season and as published in the migratory bird hunting guide, no person shall take migratory game birds with a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without

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disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells.

[(1)] (k) Waterfowl hunting in the Thames River in the Town of Waterford is prohibited in Smith Cove northwest and above the railroad tracks, and from the shores and waters in the vicinity of Mamacoke Island in Mamacoke Cove westward of a line running from the easternmost point of land at Harrison's Landing due north to the point where it intersects the southernmost tip of Mamacoke Island, and from the shores and waters within the unnamed cove west of Mamacoke Island southward of a line running due east from the southernmost point of shoreline of the unnamed waterbody west of the railroad tracks, the shores and waters of which shall also be closed to waterfowl hunting, to a point intersecting the shoreline of Mamacoke Island.

[(m)] (l) Waterfowl hunting shall be prohibited in the area of Mason's Island known as Ram Point Cove inland of a line extending from the high water mark on the southernmost tip of Ram Point to the southernmost tip of Mason's Island bordering the eastern side of Ram Point Cove.

[(n)] (m) There shall be no waterfowl hunting in the Black Hall River in Old Lyme in the area bordered on the south by Route 156 and on the north by the first upstream railroad crossing.

[(o)] (n) No person shall kill or wound any waterfowl without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird. Any bird which is killed or wounded and not retrieved shall count in the daily bag total.

[(p)] (o) A waterfowl hunting party shall include no more than 6 individuals with a minimum distance of 100 yards between parties.

[(q)] (p) There shall be no waterfowl hunting in Assekonk Swamp, North Stonington.

[(r)] (q) For waterfowl hunting, only the following shot shall be used: (1) Non-toxic steel shot no larger than BB steel, or (2) Bismuth-tin alloy (97% bismuth and 3% tin), Tungsten Polymer, or tungsten iron shot or tungsten-matrix (95.9% tungsten: 4.1 % polymer)[.] , tungsten-nickel-

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iron (Hevishot) or any other non-toxic shot approved for use by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service no larger than number two. No person may possess lead shot while waterfowl hunting.

[(s)] (r) (1) There shall be no waterfowl hunting in any direction within a 500 foot radius of the mean high tide mark at Merwin Point in Milford.

(2) There shall be no waterfowl hunting within the area bounded by the shoreline and a line from the southernmost extension of the 500 foot radius at Merwin Point in Milford referenced in subdivision (1) of this subsection westward to the southeastern shoreline at Pond Point in Milford.

[(t)] (s) Waterfowl hunting is prohibited in the area known as the Cedar Point peninsula, shoreward of a line extending from the southerly tip of the stone breakwall at the eastern end of Compo Beach to the tip of Cedar Point and to the westerly tip of Owenoke Point in Westport.

[(u)] (t) There shall be no waterfowl hunting in or from the banks of the Mystic River between Route 1 and Route 27 in Mystic and Groton.

[(v)] (u) There shall be no waterfowl hunting in or from the banks of Ash Creek north of a line drawn from the northern end of the steel railing on the fishing pier in Fairfield to the northern end of the stone seawall in Bridgeport at the mouth of the creek where it enters Long Island Sound.

[(w)] (v) Waterfowl hunting is prohibited from the shore and water in the Giant's Neck area of East Lyme at the mouth of the Pataguanset River northward of a line running due west from the south end of the fixed pier located at the Giant's Neck Boat Association Launch to the south end of the breakwall located at the end of Point Road.

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[(x)] (w) Waterfowl hunting is prohibited from the shores and waters of Long Island Sound in Greenwich as follows:

- (1) In Greenwich Cove, north of a line extending from the easternmost point of land at Willowmere Point to the northernmost point of land on the peninsula immediately north of Meadow Place.
- (2) In Cos Cob Harbor, north of a line extending due east from the southeasternmost point of land at the power plant property off of Sound Shore Road to the shoreline adjacent to Glen Avon Road.
- (3) In Greenwich Harbor, Smith Cove and Indian Harbor, north of a line extending from the northernmost tip of the area known as Round Island on the west side of Greenwich Harbor to the southernmost tip of the peninsula at the end of Indian Field Road.
- (4) In Byram Harbor, north of a line extending northeastward from the end of Dock Road to the southeastern most tip of Gamecock Island across Byram Harbor to the southern most tip of the unnamed peninsula immediately west of Harbor Drive.

[(y)] (x) Waterfowl hunting is prohibited from the shores and waters of the Branford River in Branford from Route 1 south to Montowese Avenue.

[(z)] (y) Waterfowl hunting is prohibited from the shores and waters in Post Cove in Deep River southward of the dike that extends across the northern edge of the cove.

[(aa)] (z) Waterfowl hunting is prohibited from the shores and waters in the area known as Long Shore Club Park in Westport shoreward of a line extending from the westerly tip of Owenoke Point to the southwest tip of Hendricks Point.

[(bb)] (aa) Waterfowl hunting at Plum Bank Marsh Wildlife Management Area in Old Saybrook is prohibited north and east of a line extending from Southview Circle southeast to Gull Lane.

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[(cc)] (bb) Waterfowl hunting is prohibited from the shores and waters of the Quinnipiac River in New Haven south from a line extending from the southernmost tip of Granis Island at the mouth of Hemingway Creek, across the river to Lombard Street to the Route 1 Bridge.

[(dd)] (cc) Waterfowl hunting is prohibited from the shores and waters of the Housatonic River in Milford and Stratford southward from the I-95 bridge to a line extending from Edgemont Road in Milford across the river to Riverview Place in Stratford.

Section 26-66-5 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 12. Section 26-66-5. Trapping. General

(a) Furbearing animals may be taken by deadfall, box trap, live trap, unpadded metal traps not having a spread or opening greater than [five and three quarters] 5 ¾ inches or padded metal traps not having a spread or opening greater than [five and fifteen sixteenths] 5 15/16 inches, and smooth wire traps not having an opening greater than [six and one-half] 6 ½ inches, and species specific traps. For the purposes of this section, a species specific trap shall have all of the following features: (1) a triggering mechanism and restraining mechanism enclosed by a housing; (2) when set, triggering and restraining mechanisms accessible only via a single opening; (3) an access opening measuring not greater than 2 inches in diameter if round, or not greater than 2 inches diagonally if rectangular in shape; (4) a triggering mechanism that can only be activated by a pulling force; and (5) a swivel mounted anchoring mechanism. For the purposes of this section, a padded metal trap shall have all of the following features: (1) spring strength shall not exceed 55 inch pounds with arms in the closed position and 85 inch pounds with arms in the open position: (2) a gap between the arms of the trap such that in a closed position the gap shall be no less than 1/4 inch in width and no less than 4 inches in length: (3) provides and incorporates replaceable non-weather hardening, non-age hardening padding material not less than 3/32 inch thick covering the closing surfaces of, and securely affixed to,

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the arms: (4) a chain no longer than 6 inches in length; (5) swivels located at each end of the chain, with one center mounted below the trap and (6) a shock absorbing spring incorporated into the anchoring chain. Unpadded metal traps or padded metal traps with a spread or opening not greater than seven and one-half inches, or conibear type traps or similar smooth wire traps not greater than ten inches square may be set for beaver in water bodies occupied or frequented by beaver, including but not limited to lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers and streams. No traps may have serrations or teeth.

(b) Subject to the provisions of section 26-66-5(a) unpadded metal traps and smooth wire traps shall only be placed, set or attended below the surface of the water in a pond, lake, stream, river, spring hole or tidal waters, except smooth wire traps having an opening of four and three quarters inches or less may extend above the surface of the water provided a portion of the trap frame must remain in contact with the water. Subject to the provisions of section 26-55-5(a), padded metal traps shall only be placed, set or attended below the surface of the water in a pond, lake, stream, river, spring hole or tidal waters or in the burrow of wild animal, except from December 1 through January 31, coyotes may be trapped with padded metal traps placed, set or attended on or below the ground on private land subject to the following restrictions: (1) private land parcels shall be a minimum of 10 contiguous acres; (2) any person placing, setting or attending such traps shall carry in possession proof of completion of a land trapping course approved by the commissioner; (3) any person placing, setting or attending such traps shall carry in possession written landowner permission explicitly allowing use of padded metal traps on or below ground; (4) bait shall not be visible; (5) traps shall require a force greater than two pounds to be triggered; (6) traps shall be securely anchored to the ground. No trap shall be placed, set or tended within ten feet of the waterline of a muskrat house or beaver house.

(c) Any device, the object of which is to discharge a firearm, or cause the discharge of any shell, cartridge, explosive, poison or flammable material of any nature, is prohibited when used with any trap.

(d) [No] Any person taking or possessing raw furs [required to be tagged shall sell, exchange,

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give away, mail or transport beyond state boundaries, otherwise dispose of, or retain for his or her own use, any raw fur] or carcasses of any beaver, bobcat, coyote, fisher, red fox, gray fox, wild mink or river otter [unless] shall have such raw fur [has been] or carcasses tagged, at no cost, by department representatives or, for coyote, red fox or gray fox taken by hunting, shall report the harvest by telephone or internet to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Times, dates and locations of the regular tagging sessions and telephone or internet reporting options shall be listed in the abstract of hunting laws and regulations. All raw furs [must] or carcasses shall be [properly] tagged or reported by the last scheduled tagging date of the current trapping season or before selling, exchanging, giving away, mailing or transporting beyond state boundaries, retaining for personal use, or otherwise disposing of the raw fur or carcass, whichever comes first. For the purposes of this section, raw fur means a pelt which has not been tanned, mounted or processed in any way.

(e) On privately owned lands, no person shall set, place, or attend any trap unless he has in his possession the written permission of the owner. Dated permission must be obtained for the current season.

Section 26-66-12 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 13. Section 26-66-12. Wild Turkey Seasons, Bag Limits, Firearms, Ammunition, Archery Equipment, Methods, Permits, Tags and Reporting

(a) Season and bag limit:

(1) In such areas of the state as designated by the commissioner and listed in his applicable annual Connecticut hunting and trapping guide, the open spring private land season for hunting bearded wild turkey shall begin the last Wednesday in April and end the last Saturday in May. [The two Saturdays before] From the second Saturday before the last Wednesday in April through the first Saturday before the last Wednesday in April shall be designated as

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junior turkey hunting training days. On these days, only hunters having a valid Connecticut junior hunting license and a spring season turkey permit may hunt on private lands for which they have written permission. The accompanying adult mentor shall have in his/her possession a valid Connecticut hunting license, a spring season turkey permit and written permission from the landowner. The adult mentor shall not carry a firearm, but may assist in calling. The adult mentor shall remain within physical contact of, and in a position to, provide direct supervision and instruction of the junior hunter at all times. Hunting shall be allowed from one-half hour before sunrise until 12:00 noon, except on junior turkey hunting training days, when hunting shall be allowed from one-half hour before sunrise until 5:00 pm. The season bag limit shall be three bearded wild turkeys.

(2) In such areas of the state as designated by the Commissioner and listed in his applicable annual Connecticut hunting and trapping guide, the open spring state land season for hunting bearded wild turkey shall begin the last Wednesday in April and end the last Saturday in May. [The two Saturdays before] From the second Saturday before the last Wednesday in April through the first Saturday before the last Wednesday in April shall be designated as junior turkey hunting training days. On these days, only hunters having a valid Connecticut junior hunting license may hunt on state land for which they have a spring season turkey permit. The accompanying adult mentor shall have in his/her possession a valid Connecticut hunting license and a turkey permit for the spring season. The adult mentor shall not carry a firearm, but may assist in calling. The adult mentor shall remain within physical contact of, and in a position to, provide direct supervision and instruction of the junior hunter at all times. Hunting shall be allowed from one-half hour before sunrise until 12:00 noon, except on junior turkey hunting training days, when hunting shall be allowed from one-half hour before sunrise until 5:00 pm. The season bag limit shall be two bearded wild turkeys.

(3) In such areas of the state as designated by the Commissioner and listed in his applicable annual Connecticut Hunting and Trapping Guide, the open fall season for hunting either bearded or non-bearded wild turkey with bow and arrow on private and state lands shall run concurrently with the archery deer season as specified in Section 26-86a-6(b) of the

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Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. Hunting shall be allowed from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset. The season bag limit shall be two wild turkeys either bearded or non-bearded.

(4) In such areas of the state as designated by the Commissioner and listed in his applicable annual Connecticut Hunting and Trapping Guide, the open fall firearms season for hunting wild turkey shall begin on the first Saturday in October and end on October 31. Hunting shall be allowed from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset. The season bag limit shall be one turkey either bearded or non-bearded on state lands and two turkeys either bearded or non-bearded on private lands.

(b) Firearms, ammunition, archery equipment.

During the regulated seasons, Wild turkey may only be hunted as specified with a 20 gauge or larger shotgun, smooth bore muzzleloader of 20 gauge or larger, or with bow and arrow. Shot sizes in all firearms shall be restricted to #4, 5, 6, 7, or 7 1/2. A shotgun used to hunt wild turkey shall not be capable of holding more than three shells and have its magazine plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells. Bow and arrow as used in this regulation section means a long, recurved or compound bow with a minimum draw weight of 40 pounds, or crossbow with a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds. The arrowhead shall have two or more blades and may not be less than seven-eighths of an inch at the widest point.

(c) Method of take

(1) No person shall hunt, pursue, kill, take or attempt to take any wild turkey without a validated turkey permit, in addition to the license required by Section 26-27 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

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(2) No animal, including a dog, may be used in hunting or pursuing any wild turkey, except that a dog may be used to hunt turkey during the fall firearms season on private lands only.

(3) No person shall take or attempt to take any wild turkey with the aid of real or artificial bait; over any baited area; with the use of electronic amplified turkey calling device or live decoy.

(4) No person shall take or attempt to take any wild turkey by participating in a cooperative drive or assist in hunting, pursuing or killing of wild turkeys without a validated permit. This provision shall not prohibit a hunter that has harvested all of the turkeys allowed under their permit from calling for another hunter with a valid turkey permit.

(5) It shall be unlawful to shoot from a building or other permanent structure.

(6) No person shall take or attempt to take any wild turkey which is roosted in a tree.

(d) Written consent.

No person shall hunt or assist with the hunting of wild turkey on private land without carrying dated written permission of the landowner for the current season. During the spring and fall firearms seasons such written consent shall be on forms provided by the commissioner. Only those consent forms completely filled out, signed and dated by the landowner shall be valid. Persons hunting pursuant to section 26-66-12 (e) (2) (A) shall not be required to carry written consent.

(e) Permits and tags.

(1) (A) During both the spring and the fall firearms turkey seasons an individual may apply for and purchase one state land and one private land permit. Application for all permits except state land designated areas requiring lottery selection shall be made on

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- forms provided by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee, as specified in Section 26-48a-2 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.
- (B) The issuance of permits on designated state-owned lands for the spring and fall firearms seasons shall be on the basis of a random selection of single accurately completed applications on forms provided by the commissioner. The total number of permits to be issued shall be predetermined by the commissioner and announced prior to the actual selection of permits. Upon notification of selection, the applicant shall return such notice with the appropriate fee as specified in section 26-48a-2.
- (2) (A) Upon receipt of a completed application signed by a landowner of record, the commissioner shall issue, without fee, a private land turkey hunting permit to the owner(s) of ten or more adjoining acres of private land and the husband or wife, parent, grandparent, sibling, and/or any lineal descendant of such owner(s), provided no such owner, husband, or wife, parent, grandparent, sibling, or lineal descendant shall be issued more than one such permit per season. Such permit shall be valid for hunting on the owner's land as specified in the permit application.
- (B) The land listed in the application shall:
- (i) Be located in a designated turkey hunting zone; and
 - (ii) Be open to the public for turkey hunting, subject to the provisions of section 26-66-12(d) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.
- (3) No wild turkey permit may be used unless it is validated by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and signed by the hunter upon receipt. Such permit is valid only for the state land area and hunting period, or private land for which it is identified. A valid wild turkey permit shall be carried while hunting.
- (4) Immediately upon killing a wild turkey, and before moving the carcass in any manner from where it was killed, a person shall write their conservation identification number; name;

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date and time of kill; town of kill; and permit type on a tag and then sign their name. This tag, signed and with complete information, shall be kept with the turkey at all times.

(5) No person shall change or alter a turkey permit or tag or loan to another or allow another to have or use such permit or tag issued to himself or use any permit or tag issued to another.

(6) During the spring season a person may obtain a single private land permit and a single state land permit. During the fall season a person may obtain a single archery permit, a single private land firearms permit and a single state land firearms permit.

(7) Information contained in the application for such turkey permit which is determined to be false or misleading shall be cause for rejecting such application or revoking such permit.

(f) Reporting.

(1) All spring and fall permittees, whether having taken a turkey or not, who are contacted by the Department for the purposes of surveying turkey hunting activity shall complete a hunting season activity report by the method specified in the hunting and trapping guide published annually by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

(2) During the open spring firearms/archery season, the open fall firearms season or the open fall archery season, the fully completed and signed tag specified in sec. 26-66-12(e)(4) shall remain with any harvested turkey until it is packaged for consumption or mounted for display. The fully completed and signed tag kept with a turkey harvested in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations shall constitute lawful possession, provided that the reporting required under subdivision (3) has been completed.

(3) Any person taking a turkey during the open spring firearms/archery season, the open fall firearms season or the open fall archery season shall report the taking of such turkey within

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24 hours after taking such turkey by the method specified in the hunting and trapping guide published annually by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Section 26-66-14 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 14. Section 26-66-14. Seasons, Bag Limits, and Methods for Taking Reptiles

(a) There shall be no open season for taking Bog Turtles, ([Clemmys] Glyptemys muhlenbergii), Wood Turtles, (Clemmys ensculpta), Diamondback Terrapins, (Malaclemys terrapin) [and], Eastern Box Turtles, (Terrapene c. carolina), and Spotted Turtles, (Clemmys guttata) in any developmental stage.

(b) The open season for taking Black Rat Snakes, Elaphe o. obsoleta, shall be from May 1 through August 31. During the open season, Black Rat Snakes shall only be taken by hand or hand-held implement. The daily and season bag limit shall not exceed one (1). However, there shall be no open season for taking eggs of this species.

(c) Repealed

(d) Seasons, bag limits, size restrictions, methods and gear limitations for taking common Snapping Turtles (Chelydra serpentina).

(1) The open season for taking snapping turtles shall be from July 15 through September 30.

(2) The daily bag limit shall be five (5) and the seasonal bag limit shall be thirty (30).

(3) During the open season only snapping turtles having a straight line upper shell (carapace) length of 13 inches minimum shall be taken. There is no open season for taking snapping turtle eggs and nests shall not be disturbed without prior authorization from the Department.

(4) Snapping Turtles may be taken by hand, dip net, turtle hook, floating or non-floating turtle trap, and personally attended hook and line only. The use of firearms, poison,

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explosives, seines, gill nets or fyke nets is prohibited.

- (5) No person may set, place or attend more than three (3) total turtle traps at any given time. Traps used must be constructed and set in a manner to allow turtles to surface and breathe, and shall be constructed of mesh at least one inch wide at the narrowest measurement. All traps shall have a functional escape hole provided with a minimum diameter in all directions of 7.5 inches to allow the passage of fish and small turtles. Trap size must not exceed 4 feet x 4 feet x 4 feet, except that hoop-style traps may be up to 84" in total length. Traps must be tagged with a plate or tag visible above the water line bearing the Conservation Identification Number of the user. No person shall use a turtle trap without obtaining a snapping turtle trapping endorsement on such person's Conservation License. Such endorsement shall be issued without fee and must be carried at all times while engaged in turtle trapping. Only the operator identified on the tag may tend the trap. All traps must be lifted or tended and emptied of catch at least once in a 24 hour period. Any wildlife otherwise protected must be immediately released at the point of capture.
- (6) No person shall use a turtle trap on any body of water owned, leased or otherwise under control of the Department without written authorization from the Department.
- (7) The above restrictions shall not apply to private pond or lake owners or owners of aquaculture facilities trapping for the purposes of releasing turtles back into the wild at another location.

Section 26-86a-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 15. Section 26-86a-1. Check Stations and Reporting

(a) Any person taking a deer during the seasons as established pursuant to section 26-86a of the Connecticut General Statutes shall report within 24 hours by the method specified in the hunting and trapping guide published annually by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. All persons issued a deer permit that are contacted by the Department for the

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purposes of surveying deer hunting activity shall complete a hunting season activity report by the method specified in the hunting and trapping guide published annually by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

(b) Any person, taking a deer with a shotgun, rifle, revolver, muzzleloader or bow and arrow on days specified in the hunting and trapping guide published annually by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall register such deer and have a metal possession seal affixed to the carcass at an official Department of Energy and Environmental Protection deer check station. Such deer shall be registered on the same date taken. This provision shall not apply to owners and other persons hunting with a free landowner deer season permit.

(c) No person shall register or allow to be registered in his name, any deer which he did not legally kill.

(d) No person shall possess any deer affixed with a metal possession seal unless such deer has been registered at an official deer check station.

(e) The metal possession seal shall remain attached to any deer so marked until it is cut up and packaged for consumption.

(f) Any deer registered at an official deer check station shall be subject to the collection of biological data, including but not limited to the removal of teeth, lower jaw and organs.

(g) No person shall submit any deer killed other than during a regulated sport hunting deer season to be recognized by the state for any official trophy program or officially verified by the state for use in any national official record book entries.

(h) No person shall affix a metal possession seal to any deer not properly tagged in accordance with section 26-86a-2 (c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

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(i) No person other than an authorized operator of an official Department of Energy and Environmental Protection check station shall possess or affix a metal possession seal to any deer carcass. The authorized check station operator or their designated employee shall personally affix the metal possession seal on the deer carcass being registered.

(j) The operator of any deer check station shall maintain accurate records of any information required by the department in registering legally taken deer and or in operating such check station. Such records shall be made available for inspection by any State Conservation Officer or other Department official during normal business hours.

Section 26-86a-2 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 16. Section 26-86a-2. Permits and Tags

(a) The issuance of firearm permits on state-owned lands designated by the Commissioner and listed in the applicable annual Connecticut Hunting and Trapping Guide shall be on the basis of a random computer selection of single accurately completed applications. The number of permits to be issued shall be predetermined by the commissioner and announced prior to the actual selection of permits. No person may be selected for more than one state land firearms deer permit.

(b) No deer permit may be used unless it is validated by the [department of environmental protection] Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and signed by the hunter upon receipt. A state land deer permit is valid only for the area and for the season for which it is identified. A landowner deer permit is valid only for the property listed on the application by which such permit was obtained. A valid deer permit shall be carried while hunting.

(c) Immediately upon killing a deer, and before moving the carcass in any manner from where it

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was killed, a person shall write their conservation identification number; name; date and time of kill; town of kill; and permit type on a tag and then sign their name. This tag, signed and with complete information shall be kept with the deer at all times until the carcass is cut up and packaged for consumption.

(d) No person shall change or alter deer permits or loan to another or permit another to have or use such permit issued to himself or use any permit issued to another.

(e) No person shall obtain more than one of the same type deer permit in any one year other than as specified in section 26-86a-8(c).

(f) Information contained in the application for such deer permits, which is determined to be false or misleading shall be cause for rejecting or revoking such applications or permits.

(g) No landowner shall make more than one application for the free landowner deer season permit for the same person.

(h) Persons [using private land deer permits to check legally harvested] checking antlerless deer legally harvested pursuant to private land deer permits at designated deer check stations may be issued a replacement antlerless only deer tag. Such tag shall be valid in the designated management zone during the designated season indicated on such tag by the commissioner only. Any person who checks a total of three antlerless deer at designated check stations may be issued a replacement either-sex deer tag for use during that same season in the designated management zones designated on such tag by the commissioner.

(i) Persons checking antlerless deer legally harvested pursuant to state land deer permits at designated deer check stations may be issued a replacement antlerless only deer tag. Such tag shall be valid on designated state lands during the designated season indicated on such tag by the commissioner only. Any person who checks a total of three antlerless deer at designated check stations may be issued a replacement either-sex deer tag for use during that same season on state

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lands designated on such tag by the commissioner.

[(i)](j) Deer taken as antlerless-only with a private land shotgun/rifle permit may only be taken on days and in the zones specified on the permit.

Section 26-86a-4 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 17. Section 26-86a-4. Firearms and Ammunition

(a) [During the open regulated shotgun season, deer may only be hunted with] Persons hunting subject to a state land shotgun deer permit may hunt with a 12, 16, or 20 gauge [smooth or rifled bore] shotgun [using ammunition loaded with] incapable of holding more than three shells containing a single projectile, or a muzzleloader as defined in section 26-86a of the Connecticut General Statutes. [Shotguns used to hunt deer shall not be capable of holding more than three shells and shall have its magazine plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells.]

(b) Persons hunting subject to a private land rifle/shotgun deer permit on lands less than ten acres may hunt with a 12, 16 or 20 gauge shotgun using shells containing a single projectile, or muzzleloader as defined in section 26-86a of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(c) Persons hunting subject to a private land rifle/shotgun deer permit on lands of ten or more acres may hunt with a 12, 16, 20 gauge shotgun using shells containing a single projectile, or a muzzleloader or centerfire rifle as defined in section 26-86a of the Connecticut General Statutes.

[(b)] (d) No person shall possess an electronic ignition firearm with battery connected, a capped percussion lock firearm, or a flintlock firearm having powder in the pan, where a loaded firearm is prohibited.

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Section 26-86a-6 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 18. Section 26-86a-6. Open Seasons

(a) The hours for hunting deer authorized under the regulated sport hunting season permits shall be [1/2] one-half hour before sunrise to sunset--prevailing time standard. The hours for hunting deer authorized under deer damage permits issued per Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 26-82 shall be from [1/2] one-half hour before sunrise to [1/2] one-half hour after sunset--prevailing time standard.

(b) The open seasons shall be:

- (1) for archery deer hunting on state lands open to archery deer hunting and firearms deer hunting, from September 15 through the second Tuesday before Thanksgiving Day and from the fourth Wednesday after Thanksgiving Day through December 31;
- (2) for archery deer hunting on state lands open to archery deer hunting and closed to firearms deer hunting, and on private lands, from September 15 through December 31;
- (3) for archery deer hunting on private lands in deer management zones designated by the commissioner and listed in the applicable annual Connecticut hunting and trapping guide, from September 15 through January 31;
- (4) for muzzleloader deer hunting on state lands, from the second Wednesday after Thanksgiving Day through the fourth Tuesday after Thanksgiving Day;
- (5) for muzzleloader deer hunting on private land, from the second Wednesday after Thanksgiving Day through December 31;
- (6) for shotgun deer hunting on state lands there shall be two seasons:
 - (A) season A from the second Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day through the first Friday after Thanksgiving Day;
 - (B) season B from the first Saturday after Thanksgiving Day through the second Tuesday after Thanksgiving Day;

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- (7) for shotgun or rifle deer hunting on private land, from the second Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day through the second Tuesday after Thanksgiving Day;
 - (8) for revolver, as defined in section 29-27 of the Connecticut General Statutes, with a cartridge of .357 caliber or larger and subject to the revolver carry permit provisions of subsection (b) of section 29-28 of the Connecticut General Statutes, deer hunting on 10 or more acres of private land, the seasons shall be:
 - (A) by persons authorized to hunt deer pursuant to a free private land deer permit, as provided for in section 26-86a of the Connecticut General Statutes, and a revolver deer permit, from November 1 through December 31;
 - (B) by other residents of the state authorized to hunt deer pursuant to a private land shotgun rifle deer permit and a revolver deer permit, from the second Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day through the second Tuesday after Thanksgiving Day.
- (c) Special seasons shall be:
- (1) for rifle, shotgun or muzzleloader on private land in areas of the state designated by the Commissioner for antlerless deer only, from the fourth Wednesday before Thanksgiving through the second Tuesday before Thanksgiving Day;
 - (2) for shotgun deer hunting on state land by persons authorized to hunt deer pursuant to a Connecticut junior firearms hunting license and a state land shotgun deer permit, and accompanied by an adult simultaneously authorized to hunt deer pursuant to a Connecticut hunting license and a deer permit, from the third Saturday through the [and] second [Saturdays] Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. The adult mentor shall not carry a firearm and shall remain within physical contact of, and in a position to, provide direct supervision and instruction of the junior hunter at all times.
 - (3) for shotgun or rifle deer hunting on private lands by persons authorized to hunt deer on the subject property pursuant to a Connecticut junior firearms hunting license, a private land shotgun rifle deer permit and written permission of the landowner, the junior firearms permit holder shall be accompanied by an adult who is authorized to hunt deer on the subject property simultaneously authorized to hunt deer on the subject property

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pursuant to a Connecticut hunting license, private land shotgun rifle deer permit and written permission of the landowner, from the third Saturday through the [and] second [Saturdays] Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. The adult mentor shall not carry a firearm and shall remain within physical contact of, and in a position to, provide direct supervision and instruction of the junior hunter at all times.

Statement of Purpose: The proposed amendments are intended to: allow the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to close portions of wildlife management areas to mountain biking by posting of signs when necessary; adjust the Migratory Bird Stamp fee and validation dates to be consistent with CGS 26-27b and accommodate the automated licensing system; adjust the Harvest Information Permit (HIP) fee to be consistent with CGS 26-48a and changes in issuing procedures; change procedures for tagging game birds taken at regulated private shooting preserves, dog training areas and shooting field trials and eliminate agency-supplied tags for those activities; adjusts shooting field trial permit fees to be consistent with CGS 26-52; add a possession limit on snapping turtles and spotted turtles; allow use of crossbow equipment for hunting, remove obsolete specifications for crossbow arrows and amend the definition of a loaded crossbow to be consistent with CGS Section 53a-217e(2); exempt coyote or fox hunters from the fluorescent orange clothing requirement except during the firearms deer or fall firearms turkey seasons; remove restrictions on the use of crossbows on state-owned lands; shorten the two-week hunting closure in October and allow coyote hunting during the closed period; extend the hunting closure during the spring turkey season for consistency with season extension; remove redundant language regarding minimum distances between waterfowl hunting parties; adjust the regulated crow season to increase hunting opportunities; provide alternative methods for reporting coyote or fox taken by hunting; increase youth turkey hunter training opportunities from two days to seven days on state and private land; adds crossbows to list of bow and arrow equipment used for turkey hunting; allow dogs to be used for hunting turkeys during the fall firearms season on private lands; make technical changes to scientific nomenclature for Wood Turtles and provide protection for Spotted Turtles; establish seasons, bag limits, legal methods and gear restrictions for the taking of Snapping Turtles; add muzzleloaders to the list of hunting implements in reference to mandatory deer check station

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requirements; clarify provision regarding the issuance of firearms permits on state-owned lands; clarify provision regarding issuance of replacement antlerless deer tags and make provisions for such tags on designated state lands when required to meet management objectives; allow use of muzzleloaders during the shotgun/rifle deer season; remove the three shell limitation for shotgun deer hunting on private lands and add electronic ignition muzzleloaders for the purpose of defining a loaded firearm; and increase youth deer hunter training opportunities from two days to seven days on state and private land.